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A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is pleased to present the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Report for the reporting year 2006. DNREC publishes this report to inform citizens about the environment in their communities. This is the 20th year of TRI data collection and I am particularly gratified at the effectiveness of the program, which is a non-regulatory way to reduce toxic chemical releases, largely through the visibility of TRI reporting. It is no surprise that properly motivated and left alone to innovate, Delaware companies have demonstrated continued ingenuity in becoming more efficient and significantly reduced their emissions.

This TRI report shows progress in two important areas: increased accuracy and decreased emissions across a broad front. Instead of relying on estimates, Delaware's TRI facilities increasingly use directly monitored data results. Last year, the use of such direct data revealed higher than estimated mercury releases from the Claymont Steel recycling plant. As a consequence, I issued an enforcement order requiring substantial reductions, and the company has made significant progress by cutting mercury emissions approximately in half. The 2006 TRI data reflect a more accurate method for reporting nitrate discharges into the Delaware River from the Delaware City refinery (Premcor/Valero) -- about ten times greater than its data in the 2005 TRI report. Our Water Resources Division is now working with the refinery to reissue the waste water discharge permit, and that permit will reduce these discharges.

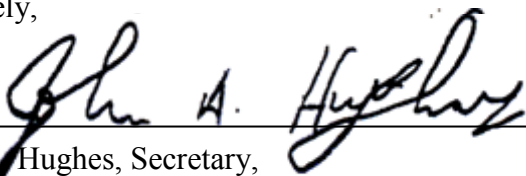
Excluding this correction to nitrate discharges into the Delaware River, the total TRI releases for Delaware increased about two percent over the 2005 reported releases. This increase is due largely to an increase reported by Perdue Georgetown for nitrate compounds released to water, and increased releases to air associated with the use of more coal at the Edgemoor Conectiv Power plant. Emissions from power plants will be significantly reduced when compliance with our multi-pollutant regulations is achieved. The overall release TRI reported on-site release trend since 1998, however, is down by about 6 percent. Likewise, the trend for on-site releases of carcinogenic compounds continues downward with vinyl chloride falling by 33,000 pounds, 46 percent less than in 2005.

Despite concerns by states and others, the TRI program was modified by a Federal rule allowing more facilities to report on the TRI short Form A, beginning in the 2006 reporting year. This "short form" provides only general information and does not report any quantitative amounts. Nonetheless, through outreach efforts of DNREC's TRI program, Delaware companies generally did not shift to this "short form" and continued to provide more detailed TRI data.

We publish two TRI documents annually: This more technical *TRI Data Detail Report* and the shorter *Data Summary Report*, a more compact, less technical report. These reports and reports for recent years are available at DNREC offices and also through the public information link at <http://www.serc.delaware.gov/epcra.shtml>. Specific facility data from 1995-2006 are also available at the above web site, and the ***Other Sources of Information*** section of this report provides details about the many other DNREC and EPA Internet sites devoted to community right-to-know.

I urge you to take advantage of the information in this report to learn about the management of chemicals in your community. I also encourage our industrial citizens to continue to reduce releases below today's levels and focus on providing a safer and more healthful environment for our future.

Sincerely,



John A. Hughes, Secretary,
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control